

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
RESEARCH SUBJECT
INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

Protocol Title:	Property Valuation, Taxation, and School Finance in the Neoliberal State (IRB Protocol #834717)
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Thank you for taking the time to consider participating in this study. If you agree to participate, know that I will work to protect your identity and will take great efforts to make sure that I represent you and your insights with as much accuracy and thoughtfulness as I can. Please know that your participation is entirely voluntary and that you may opt-out at any point.

What is this study all about?

The purpose of this study is to learn more about Greater Hartford residents' involvement in and perspectives about the region's real estate markets and public finance system.

How will the results be used?

The results of the study will be used in Rachael Stephens' dissertation and to inform future research or other educational projects (including publications and presentations).

Will my identity be concealed in any publications or presentations?

In public publications and presentations, I will use pseudonyms instead of your real name. I will also change other information that you share with me (for example, where you work and the names of the organization with whom you work) so that your identity cannot be determined through cross-referencing other any other public records. The only exceptions to this rule are: (a) if you expressly ask me not to conceal your identity, (b) if you are a public official and the nature of your participation involves sharing details of your public position (which can then be found online, etc.), or (c) if you give me permission to publicly share audio- or video-recordings (where I cannot conceal your voice, face, or other visual identifiers). Please note that I might ask to record an encounter simply for purposes of data analysis, but I will *not* share these recordings unless you give me explicit permission to do so. Finally, all data (my notes, audio-recordings, video-recordings, etc.) will be stored in a secure manner.

Is it voluntary? If I participate, is it a big time commitment? Can I change my mind?

There is no time requirement and the nature and extent of participation will vary depending on interest and availability. Most typically, I will ask if you will allow me to interview you or to observe you during the course of a specific activity (e.g. shopping for a home, going to a town hall meeting). Your participation is entirely voluntary, you may change your mind at any point, and you can always ask me to exclude anything from the record.

What does “anthropological research” even involve? What “data” will you record?

Anthropologists write “ethnographies,” or stories about how people go about their daily lives. The genre is similar to long-form journalism. For instance, I might write a sentence like this:

“ I met Jen, a thirty-something female who was born in Hartford, and her real estate agent, John, on the steps of an old Victorian home ..As we walked through the house, Jen noted the beautiful french doors... Afterwards, she told me ‘it’s a beautiful home...”

Your participation might involve two main types of activities:

- (1) *Formal or Informal Interviews:* Anthropological interviews can be formal (where we set a time to meet and I ask you open-ended questions) or informal (more like a casual conversation during the course of other activities). You might simply agree to let me interview you once, or you might decide you want to complete many interviews. I will take notes on the interview and also audio-record. These notes and recordings are confidential. In rare cases, I might ask you if I can video-record the interview. You can stop the interview at any point. You can also ask me to turn off the audio- or video-tape or stop taking notes in order to keep something “off the record.”
- (2) *Participant Observation (a fancy term for me “tagging along” as you go about your routine):* Unlike other sciences, anthropological research does not happen in a laboratory. Instead, anthropologists pay attention to what people do in their everyday lives. My aim is to see how “regular life” unfolds, so I will interfere as little as possible. I will take notes on what I observe. I might also ask you if I can take pictures, audio record an interaction, or in rare cases, ask you if I can video-record a specific interaction. You can ask me to stop at any point and you can also ask me to exclude anything from the record.

What do I get out of it?

There is no direct benefit to you if you participate.

Are there any risks? Is it private and confidential?

The potential risks of participating in this study are minimal. The primary risk is the potential threat to your confidentiality, but I will take great efforts to maintain confidentiality (see above).

What about audio- and visual-recordings? If I consent to being being recorded, does that mean you will share the recordings in your publications or presentations?

No. If you consent to be recorded, this does NOT mean that you are giving me permission to share these recordings. I will simply use these recordings for my own analysis. When I ask if you give me permission to audio- or video- record an encounter, I will also ask you if you give me permission to share these recordings in various public publications or educational presentations. This decision is entirely up to you and you may change your mind at any point during the study.

Who do I call if I have questions or complaints?

You can call Rachael Stephens (860-377-4526) for more information. If you want to talk to someone outside the research team, you may contact the Office of Regulatory Affairs at the University of Pennsylvania with any questions, concerns or complaints (215-898-2614).

INFORMED CONSENT

When you sign below, you are agreeing to take part in this research study. If you have any questions or there is something you do not understand, please ask. You may ask for a copy of this consent document.

Printed Name of Subject

Signature of Subject

Date

AUDIO-VISUAL RELEASE

I may ask to audio- or video- record our interactions. You do NOT need to consent to this to be a part of the study. You can change your mind at any point. You can also decide if I only use these recordings for analysis or if I can share them in presentations/publications.

Audio-recordings

I () DO NOT consent to being audio-taped as a part of this study.

I () DO consent to being audio-taped as a part of this study. These recordings

() may NOT be shared in public presentations or publications.

() may be shared in public presentations or publications.

Video-recordings

I () DO NOT consent to being video-taped as a part of this study.

I () DO consent to being video-taped as a part of this study. These videos

() may NOT be shared in public presentations or publications.

() may be shared in public presentations or publications.

Printed Name of Subject

Signature of Subject

Date